

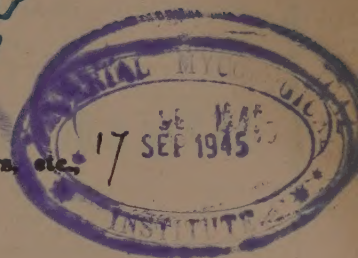
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South Australian News and Notes

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Queensland News and Notes

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Tasmanian News and Notes

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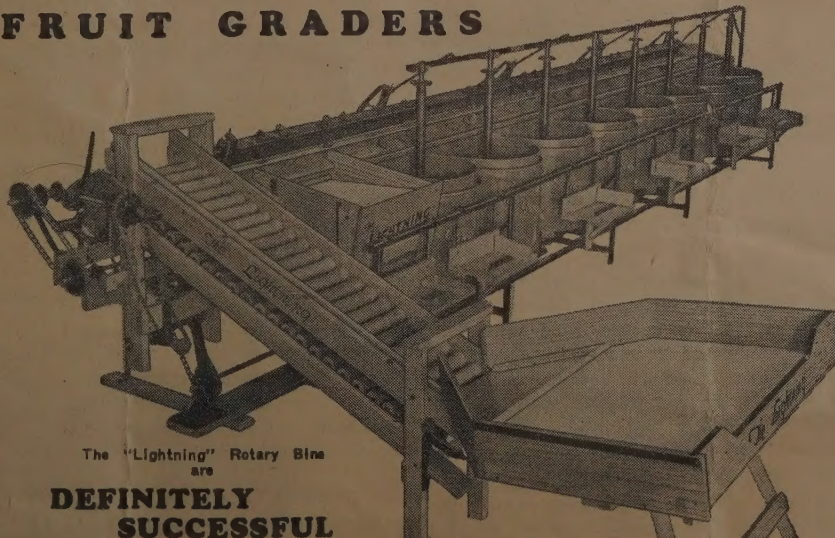
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## West Australian News

*Fruit and Vegetable Marketing — Heavy Rains and Floods — Tomato and Mandarin Ceiling Prices — New Cool Stores at Donnybrook — Apple and Pear Control — Potato Production and Digging.*

(By Our Correspondent.)

**P** RIME QUALITY APPLES are scarce, the majority on offer in the markets being well below fancy grade. Oranges are plentiful, and inferior lines difficult to sell at satisfactory prices. Fair supplies of Mandarins are coming along, but the supply of Lemons has been patchy. Passionfruit and Cape Gooseberries have been scarce, and are fetching excellent prices. The supply of Geraldton Tomatoes has been good.

As these notes are written, however, heavy rains are sweeping the State. Tomato gardens in the Geraldton district have suffered severely, and it is estimated that there will be losses up to 50 per cent. At Kenwick a fine Celery crop is at present several feet under water.

Banana growers in Carnarvon have had an anxious time, and they do not seem to be out of danger yet. The plague of locusts in that area has assumed tremendous proportions. Poison sprays and large quantities of arsenate of lead have been delivered into the district, but wet weather has now interfered with spraying.

A freak Apple was recently grown by Mr. J. E. Page, of Victoria-street, Albany. This Apple was really two Apples grown on the one stem and firmly joined in Siamese-twin fashion. The fruit has perfect formation and is coloured on the lines of the Delicious variety. The Superintendent of Horticulture (Mr. H. R. Powell), who is visiting the district, thinks it to be a seedling type.

An increase in price for out-of-season Tomatoes has been announced by the Deputy Prices Commissioner, the maximum prices in the metropolitan area now being: wholesale, 7d. a lb.; retail, 10d. a lb., an increase of 3d. a lb. to consumers.

Mandarins have also been brought under price control. Growers' maximum price per bushel case, containing not less than 150 Mandarins, has been fixed at 23/5, less the usual cost of rail transport from grower's siding to the metropolitan area. Maximum

metropolitan wholesale price is 25/-. Permitted maximum rates for Mandarins marketed in 4-bushel cases (count of 112 or more) are:—Growers, 17/7 delivered Perth; wholesale, metropolitan, 18/9; wholesale, country, 19/9. Maximum retail ceiling is 2/6 per dozen, metropolitan; and 3/- per dozen elsewhere.

The erection of cool stores at Donnybrook to the order of Patterson and Co. Ltd., has commenced. The building is being erected by arrangement with and at the request of Commonwealth Food Control, in furtherance of the food production expansion programme. Stores will have a capacity of 60,000 cubic feet, divided into five chambers, with a cold store, compressor house and office. Stores, which are mainly for fruit and Potatoes, should, it is hoped, be completed by September.

The Acting Commissioner of Public Health (Dr. A. N. Kingsbury) has warned the public of the dangers of arsenic sprays or dusts now being used by many growers. As many dealers are at present buying direct from growers, vegetables not inspected by the Health Department's inspectors are being sold to the public, and it was felt that a warning, through the local press, was necessary.

An article has recently appeared in the local press, giving the Controller's reasons for the necessity of control over Apple and Pear crops. According to this, this State now has a production of over 1,500,000 bushels of Apples annually, but consumption is only 650,000 bushels. Factories utilize 300,000 bushels, exports to the Eastern States represent 200,000 cases, and this year — for the first time since 1940—a shipment of 36,000 bushels of Jonathans and Granny Smith's is being made to Great Britain. "Without regulated marketing," says the article, "you would have seen a scramble for markets, periods of glut and shortage. Speculation would have resulted, together

with the cornering of supplies and storage. Losses and orchard deterioration would have resulted. . . It has been said that, as there is a surplus, fruit prices should be lower. These urgings take no account of actual physical costs involved, transport and labour difficulties." The article concludes: "It is my opinion that after the war there will be need for at least a period of years of firm control until there is refrigerated shipping available to lift the surplus. There will be no shortage of markets."

**Donnybrook Potatoes.**

The Donnybrook zone council of the W.A. Potato Growers' Association have decided to ask the State Advisory Committee to recommend to the Australian Potato Committee the payment of a storage premium of 5/- per week per ton on the present crop of Potatoes as from June 1. Harvesting of the present crop has been completed. The Civil Aliens' Corps labour unit was again requisitioned, and together with P.O.W.s. they have dug some 6,000 tons. Although a much bigger acreage was planted this year the average yield was much lower, due mainly to Potato fly infestation. It is considered that losses of crops through floods in the Harvey area could have been avoided if sufficient co-operation had been shown. Total number of applications for outside digging labour received by the local Agricultural Committee was 61, and of these only 44 four-day notices were received. Only three growers forwarded their notices at the correct time. The committee feels that "it appears that growers are not sufficiently interested in seeing that their labour estimate forms are forwarded at the correct times, and until forms are received at the correct times to ensure a reasonably correct estimate of outside labour requirements, it is difficult to see how growers' requirements can be met."

**Canned Vegetables.**

Plaistowe's have announced that in future they will grow and can Peas in addition to the other vegetables they are processing. Planting of Peas has begun on an 800-acre plot leased near York.

The W.A. Apple and Pear Marketing Board have now concluded the season's mobile Apple sales service.

**G** OOD RAINS are reported from W.A. in the latest statement from the Supt. of Horticulture, Mr. H. R. Powell, who states in the May report that fortunately the weather on the whole was mild. Consequently, sown cover crops and weeds made good growth. In the Bridgetown district two slight frosts were experienced during the month.

The harvesting of the late varieties of Apples such as Yates, Doughertys and Rokewoods commenced during the period. Although these varieties were severely affected by dry Winter conditions previously experienced, size and colour development were good. Fortunately, in most orchards these varieties were not heavily cropped. The Granny Smiths were harvested in large quantities and a considerable quantity of them were diverted to factories.

**Citrus.**

The quality of Navels improved during the month, both with regard to size and sweetness. With the advent of the Winter rains a quantity of these fruits shed from the trees. The incidence of cracked fruit is not as serious as was thought would be the case.

The incidence of disease has not been severe. In the citrus groves red scale is showing up probably more than usual. In the Apple districts where Apple Curculio is present, some damage was caused to the trees.

The good rains experienced during the month had a very beneficial effect on the sown cover crops, particularly on New Zealand Blue Lapin which is widely grown in the Donnybrook and Manjimup Districts.

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## NEWS OF THE MONTH

### THE WAR

While the armies of occupation are attending to their tasks in war-torn Europe, increasingly heavy blows are falling on the Japanese aggressors. Their fate will be the same as the German fascists, submission to unconditional surrender.

An urgent call is now made for clothing of all kinds to relieve distress in Europe.

Meanwhile, Australian production of war material and foodstuffs is being stepped up. There will be no relaxing of our national and personal efforts to defeat Japan—and as quickly as possible.

Conferences of producers are being held in various parts of Australia, when consideration is being given to present and post-war problems.

While opinions differ on the question of controls, there surely can be no difference of opinion as to the necessity for primary producers to organise effectively.

### NEWS IN BRIEF.

According to the present stage of bud development, the indications are that the coming Pear crop in the Doncaster district will be light.

Peach aphid eggs are apparent in several orchard districts. Winter sprayings of tar distillate are necessary.

## OBITUARY

Australia's Prime Minister.

In the lamented death of Mr. John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, this nation loses a noted citizen and the world loses a high ranking statesman.

A man of the people, John Curtin rose by diligence and singleness of purpose to leadership in his party, and when the supreme test came, that of leading the nation in time of war, he fulfilled his duties with clarity of judgment, high purpose, unflinching courage and devotion to duty. He died at his post.

Mr. Fred W. Vear.

One of the pioneers of the Victorian fruit industry, Mr. F. W. Vear, passed away in mid-June at the age of 83. The late Mr. Vear was a fruit-grower from boyhood. As the need for organisation developed, Mr. Vear became actively associated with the Victorian Fruitgrowers' Central Association, and became its President. Later he became an exporter and also established a business at the Victoria Market. He was associated with Mr. A. E. Hocking and Mr. W. Muir in the purchase of the Graceburn Valley Orchard, Healesville.

The late Mr. Vear was one of the most respected men in the fruit industry. In his public life he was a Shire Councillor and Shire President, and in his private life was a Sunday School Superintendent at the Burwood Methodist Church until a few years ago. His wife predeceased him many years ago. He leaves one son, Mr. L. H. Vear, of Hastings.

The Victoria Market business, under the name of Mr. F. W. Vear is now owned and managed by Mr. W. A. McGowan and Mr. M. H. Dykes.

Mr. J. B. Brewer.

It is also with regret that the death of Mr. J. B. Brewer has to be recorded. For many years he was the Secretary of the Victorian Fruitgrowers' Central Association and performed services of great value to the industry.

The late Mr. Brewer was actively associated with his lifelong friend, Mr. F. W. Vear, in his endeavours to benefit the fruit industry.

He leaves an honoured memory.

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## SOILS AND IRRIGATION EXTENSION SERVICE.

Developments on Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, N.S.W.

THE Soils and Irrigation Extension Service, at the C.S.I.R. Irrigation Research Station, Griffith, N.S.W., has now been in existence for almost two years. It was formed in 1943 following a request to C.S.I.R. by the N.S.W. Minister for Agriculture, and the Under-Secretary of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, for the Research Station to undertake temporarily a specialized extension service in soils and irrigation practices on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. The present arrangement will come up for review during 1946.

The staff of the Service comprises the Officer-in-charge, Mr. R. R. Pennefather, together with three research officers, and a secretary, all of whom are graduates in agricultural science.

The rapid decline of plantings in the M.I.A. in recent years has caused

serious concern, and as a result of its investigations, the Research Station at Griffith has amassed considerable information on the factors associated with this decline and the steps which may be taken to alleviate it. Many of the problems that have occurred are associated with excess soil water and salting, and the S.I.E.S. is endeavouring to translate the results of research into farm practice.

At the outset, the Service had before it the following aims:—

- Improving soil and irrigation management methods on farms where there is potential danger for those already showing signs of deterioration but which are deemed saveable;
- Improving the planning and management of replanted and newly-planted areas;
- Reclaiming damaged land.

In its work, the Service lays stress on the value of farm visits and these occupy a large proportion of each officer's time. Coupled with these visits are field days and extension schools carried on in collaboration

with the Settler's Extension Groups. Press articles, radio broadcasts, and a special "Farmers' Newsletter" issued periodically, are among the vehicles used for the dissemination of information. Other publicity channels such as theatre slides, posters, and circulars are also used.

The Service has been notable in achieving the full co-operation of all the chief organisations interested in the well-being of irrigation farming on the M.I.A. and it is financed by contributions from C.S.I.R., the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, the Rural Bank of N.S.W., the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, the Leeton Co-operative Cannery Ltd., the Griffith Producers' Co-operative Company Ltd., the Leeton Fruit-growers' Co-operative Society Ltd., and the Yenda Producers' Co-operative Company Ltd.

The C.S.I.R. staff works in close association with the officers of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture stationed in the Areas, who retain full responsibility for extension work

on the horticultural, as distinct from the soils and irrigational side.

## APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS.

Australian Organisation Desired.

THE NEED has been expressed in several quarters for the re-establishment of the Australian Apple and Pear Council. During the war years this organisation has not been functioning.

Exports to the United Kingdom have recommenced and may be expected to grow.

The need exists for developing the Australian markets.

The visit of the British Farmers' Delegation stimulated interest. The necessity for an Australia-wide organisation of Apple and Pear growers was underlined.

The utter defeat of Japan is certain.

A contribution to the cause of peace and post-war reconstruction would be the effective organising of primary producers.

Several sections of the fruit industry are now organised on an all-Australian basis.

The Apple and Pear industry needs to complete any final details necessary to make possible an organisation functioning on a Commonwealth basis. Only thus could representation be secured at British and International Conferences affecting the industry.

It is understood that fruitgrowers' organisations in several of the States are advocating the calling of an Interstate Conference to see if the Apple and Pear Council can again function or if an organisation on similar lines can be brought into being to attend to the urgent matters which are looming ahead.

## HIGH COURT CASE.

Lawford and Zerbe v. Aust. Apple and Pear Marketing Board.

The legal case in the High Court of Australia—Lawford and Zerbe versus the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board, was continued before His Honour Mr. Justice McTier-nan during June.

It was claimed on behalf of the plaintiff that the amount paid by way of advances on fruit acquired was not adequate. A declaration was sought by the Court (a) that the plaintiff was entitled to receive as compensation for the acquisition of Apples and Pears the fair market value thereof or alternatively such compensation on just terms as determined by the Court, (b) an order for the payment to the plaintiff of the amount of compensation found to be due to the plaintiff, less the amount of advances already received.

Dr. Coppel, K.C., and Mr. F. W. Eggleston, instructed by Messrs. Malleson and Stewart, appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. W. K. Fullager, K.C., Mr. A. Dean, K.C., and J. B. Tait, K.C., instructed by the Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Commonwealth.

This case is of widespread interest, as this has been accepted as a test case, and the decision will affect the large number of instances where growers have applied for increased compensation.

Judgment was reserved.

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## SEASONABLE NOTES

### BRYOBIA MITE AND RED SPIDER.

#### Winter Control Methods.

The present heavy infestation of bryobia and to a lesser extent red spider, emphasises the need for particular attention to Winter control measures. Entomologists of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that, at present no satisfactory Summer treatment is available for these pests, and if the Winter treatment is not carried out efficiently, the survival of a large proportion of the present mite population will mean the risk of a heavy Summer infestation which can be reduced, but not satisfactorily controlled, by means of expensive Summer sprays.

Bryobia mite and red spider are similar in appearance and cause a similar type of injury, but bryobia mite is by far the more harmful insofar as fruit trees are concerned. Adult bryobia mites are usually reddish brown in colour and flattened. They may be recognised by their long front legs which are easily visible under a hand lens. During the Summer they lay their eggs on the leaves, but in late Summer and Autumn the eggs are laid on the tree wood, particularly at the junction of branches or fruit spurs.

Red Spider feeds on a wider variety of plants than bryobia, and is more harmful as a pest of vegetables and glass-house plants, than of fruit trees. It passes the Winter in the adult stage on rubbish in the soil or in cracks and crevices in the bark of trees. Egg-laying commences in the Spring. The eggs are small, globular and almost transparent. Red spider is characterised by profuse web-spinning and, like bryobia, is favoured by hot dry weather. The most important difference in the life cycle of these two pests is in the method of overwintering, as this affects the methods of control used against them. Satisfactory control of bryobia mite can be obtained by thorough and careful spraying with red oil 1 in 20, or lime sulphur 1 in 10. Better results are

obtained when this spray is delayed until late in the Winter, but not so late that injury might be done to the tree. These sprays will not effect red spider to any great extent and to counter this pest it is necessary to keep the orchard clear of rubbish and to cultivate during the Winter.

### NICOTINE SULPHATE STILL SCARCE.

Fruitgrowers cannot expect any relief during the coming season from the present shortage of nicotine sulphate as supplies may be even shorter than in the past season. Horticultural officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that this shortage emphasises the value of Winter control measures for several insect pests, for which nicotine sulphate used in the Summer might be regarded as an alternative method of control.

The green Peach aphid can be completely controlled by a thorough application of tar distillate and similar sprays applied between the middle and the end of July. The same applies to the Black Cherry aphid, and there should be no need to "come back" with nicotine sulphate in the Summer months. Aphids on Pears and Plums have a different life history and can be controlled only by Spring and Summer applications of nicotine sulphate, so that any available supply should be kept for that purpose.

Red Spider, common on all the deciduous fruits, can be controlled by Winter spraying with lime-sulphur or red oil. During the Summer months, white oil may be used as an alternative to nicotine sulphate.

During the past season, woolly aphid was troublesome on Apples, due to the unfavourable conditions for the wasp parasite which normally keeps it in check. A Winter spray of red oil would be advisable to reduce the population of live aphid.

Apple leaf hoppers (Jassids), which were so prevalent last season in parts of the North-eastern District and at Bacchus Marsh, present a problem, as there is no known al-

ternative to nicotine sulphate. It would be advisable to prune out and burn as much young wood as possible as the over-wintering eggs of the leaf-hopper are deposited under the bark of the current season's growth. Any available nicotine sulphate should be used in the calyx spray and again about one month later.

### REPLANTING THE ORCHARD.

There is an age for all fruit trees beyond which they no longer bear profitable crops of fruit. This age varies greatly and depends on the kind of fruit and the conditions under which trees are grown.

Horticultural officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture give order of longevity of fruit trees as follows, the first-named being the shortest lived:—Peaches, Apricots, citrus, Cherries, Apples, Plums, Pears, Quinces. The conditions limiting the profitable age of fruit trees are one or a combination of the following in order of importance:—Drainage, fungous diseases, insect pests, soil fertility and cultural practices. Undoubtedly, a young block of fruit trees approaching maturity is a far more economical proposition than an ancient, diseased block. Old Peaches and Apricots become largely devoid of fruit producing wood in their lower branches and gaps occur where trees have died through poor drainage. Old Apple and Pear trees with rough-barked trunks and branches are a harbour for codling moth, woolly aphid, red spider and mealy bug. Fungous diseases, such as armillaria or polystictus, may be seriously affecting the health of a large number of trees. In such cases the best treatment is to remove the trees and replant.

A policy of regularly replanting an orchard will result in the property retaining its value. In addition, there is cause for pride in establishing a healthy block of young trees.

### VICTORIAN CROP REPORT.

In a report issued by the Victorian Dept. of Agric. early in June, the following was stated:—

Bud development on most varieties of deciduous fruits appears to be satisfactory. In the Doncaster area, prospects for the coming season are that the Pear crop will be light.

Reports from the Diamond Creek, Doncaster and Burwood districts indicate that Peach aphid eggs are appearing in large numbers on Peach and Nectarine trees. Growers should not neglect the Winter applications of tar distillate or Winter washes for the control of this pest.

Nurserymen state that the main varieties of trees have been sold out and orders are being taken now for next season.

The harvesting of Washington Navels in the Mildura area has commenced. Fruit is large and rind marked. Some good crops of Valencias are in evidence. Red scale appeared in large numbers during March and April, but most groves with scale infestations have now been fumigated.

In the Swan Hill district fruit is large and coarse in appearance. There has been an increase in all varieties of scale, for the control of which growers have been spraying with white oil.

Salt patches are showing up in some vineyards and growers are taking the opportunity of doing much needed drainage work. Because of the irregular growth resulting from wind damage, the pruning of vines will present a problem this Winter.

#### Vegetables.

Heavy yields of good quality Carrots are being obtained. Good yields of Red Beet are also being recorded in these areas. Harvesting of green Beans and Peas is continuing at Mildura; Imperial D Lettuce are ready for picking. Glass-house culture of Tomatoes is expanding in this district.

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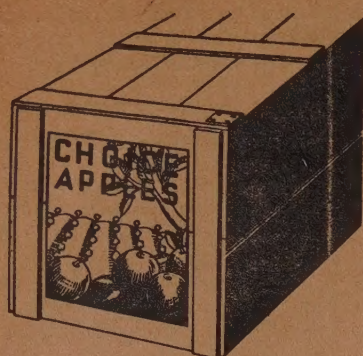
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#### NEW CITRUS WRAPPING.

##### Important Tests in U.S.A.

Important uses for developing the citrus industry are claimed for certain moistureproof wrappings. Information just to hand from U.S.A. state that fresh Oranges, six months old, will be a post-war reality. Cold storage is not necessary as the wrapped fruit can be kept at around 70 deg. Fahr. during the entire period.

Chemically, the material, under the trade name of Pliofilm, is a rubber hydrochloride, a complex compound obtained by the reaction of hydrochloric acid with natural rubber.

It is stated that the Florida Citrus Exchange, which handles a large percentage of the Florida citrus crop, is already preparing to adopt this new idea as soon as certain critical war materials that are used to manufacture the new citrus wrap, are available.

For many years the horticultural laboratories of the Florida Agric. Experimental Station, in conjunction with the University of Florida, worked on various types of material to retard the deterioration of fruit after it had been harvested.

In 1937, Pliofilm was brought to their attention and preliminary tests indicated the product had possibilities which former materials lacked and immediately exhaustive tests were undertaken. Several carloads of fruit were experimentally handled to prove the commercial value of the idea.

The spread of the decay organism is prevented.

It is claimed for pliofilm that it permits the fruit to exhale its carbon dioxide at the optimum rate of respiration. And it holds the moisture loss from fruit to less than one per cent. over several months' storage as compared with a ten times greater loss when under identical conditions of temperature and humidity for fruit wrapped in the ordinary tissue paper.

An automatic machine has been devised to stretch the film around the Orange at the rate of 1,000 fruit per minute. Thus this first machine, which is now completed, will wrap approximately half a million fruit in one eight-hour day.

#### P.O.W.—FAR EAST—BURMA.

Consequent upon a press statement on 5th instant, that British P.O.W., including Australians, released from Rangoon were in hospital in India, Mr. McConchie, in Ceylon, was cabled suggesting he contact South East Asia Command H.Q. offering all service possible, including his visiting India by air with appropriate stores and bank credits. Two Red Cross Committees in Calcutta and Bombay were cabled authorising them to spend any money necessary to give service to our prisoners. Cabled advice as to developments has been asked for.



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# Tasmanian News and Notes

*Processing Factories Busy — Cover Crops — Pruning — Effects of Manure Shortage — Post-war Reconstruction.*

(By Our Correspondent.)

THE CROP OF APPLES in the northern areas was well below last year's record, but there was a good crop of Democrats, and that helped to fill the cool stores. The drying factory is still in operation.

Pruning has commenced in many orchards and the buds seem to be well developed.

The crop of W.B.C. Pears was a record, but the factories only canned a small percentage, the balance went to waste, other varieties of Pears were also good, but were not called up to any extent.

The Spreyton district suffered severe damage by hail which reduced the bulk of crop to factory grade at a reduced compensation, but the growers are requesting more liberal treatment.

In the southern districts the weather remained much drier than usual right to the time of writing, and a subsoil rain is badly needed.

Picking is completed and the factories are finishing processing the midseason varieties and will begin on Sturmers, etc., as soon as the midseason fruit is finished. The entire crop of Sturmers will be used, and as the factories are paying the same for them as for varieties in No. 1 group and those that get on to the market are selling at a good profit it is difficult to justify the Government's persistent refusal to allow a higher compensation for them, they are the one variety that has been used to the full for several years so much have shown a profit as a variety if the accounts were analysed.

This season the last English shipment was largely composed of Sturmers and Democrats.

Pruning has begun in many orchards and ploughing in some where green manuring is not practiced. Those who follow the practice will leave ploughing till much later, in the hope that the green-crop will grow a bit.

All factories are busy at present, but it is doubtful if they will reach

last year's output as the season by all appearances will be a short one.

The lack of fertilizers is becoming apparent in the general appearance of the trees, which have made less growth and the leaves are smaller and not such a healthy green in many cases; the fruit has also been smaller. The labour position should improve during the coming season as a lot of men are being discharged for various reasons.

There is an increasing demand for small farms and orchards, but as the price is subject to control (not always intelligent), sellers are a little shy of unsettling themselves as their plans for the future are also under control.

Small fruit growers are complaining that owing to increased costs of picking, etc., the margin left for the grower is actually less than it was a few years ago and some are contemplating reducing their areas to what they can handle themselves with a minimum of outside help.

The high rates of taxation are also tending towards decreased production as the proportion left to the producer does not provide any incentive to extra exertion and progress. The ultimate result in the aggregate will be detrimental to the whole community. The State Fruit Board, at its last meeting decided to ask that pine cases and timber for them, whether imported in shooks or in logs and cut here be admitted duty free. Probably mainland organisations will support the request.

The Marketing Board has notified growers that all midseason and late varieties will be paid for on delivery only. The instructions to pick midseason varieties were not issued in time to allow growers to comply in full, and a lot had already fallen. In my opinion midseason varieties should be paid for on assessment under the circumstances, but as ample notice was given to pick and store late varie-

ties it is reasonable to pay on delivery only, but at their market value and not at scheduled rates of compensation. A fair proportion has been sold at high prices and the balance has recovered costs, so there should be a margin of profit on the whole crop as only a relatively small percentage of the midseason varieties were not delivered.

Post-war reconstruction of the industry is receiving a lot of attention in the fruitgrowing districts and for interstate trade the general opinion seems to be tending towards some organisation on the Queensland C.O.D. lines, rather than a return to the agency system in vogue before the war. Even the dyed-in-the-wool labour supporters do not favour a purely Government control, but want full growers' representation on any organisation set up.

The articles in the last "Fruit World" on pruning and black spot were appreciated by readers.

## TASMANIAN STATE FRUIT BOARD.

Fruit-packing Classes :: Apples and Pears for the Near "East" :: Problem of Acquisition Payments.

AT the last meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board, items of interest included the following:

### Fruit-packing Classes.

The Dept. of Agric. advised that although there had been a decrease in the attendances of school children attending fruit-packing classes in the present season, an effort would be made to increase the number of trainees in 1946.

Attendances of school children at fruit-packing classes were as follows:—1942-43, 840 at 38 centres; in 1943-44, 854 at 37 centres, and in 1944-45, 650 at 26 centres.

### Trade With "The East."

The chairman, Mr. T. G. Thompson, said the Board was endeavouring to arrange for a quantity of Tasmanian Apples to go to Eastern countries. The Federal Government intended to send a token shipment of Australian commodities for publicity purposes. The Tasmanian S.F. Board was seeking the inclusion of Tasmanian Apples

## AUSTRALIAN EXPORTERS' FEDERATION.

### Move at Hobart.

At a meeting of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, Mr. E. H. Thompson presiding, it was decided that a meeting of exporters be called to consider proposals for an export development group to join in proposed organisation to be known as the Australian Exporters' Federation.

in order to do something towards establishing trade in the post-war period.

### Acquisition Payments.

Mr. F. Burnaby said growers were anxious about the terms of payment for the acquisition of the 1945 Apple and Pear crop. It appeared growers were to be paid on a delivery basis: this was unfair as they had had a bad year. Growers expected to be paid on a tree-measurement basis. It was anomalous that Winter Cole Pears which had not been called up, would be paid for on a tree measurement basis. He moved that the Marketing Board be asked for a statement on payment.

Mr. J. B. Bulman, in seconding, said the Government would not lose if crops were paid for on the basis of tree estimation.

Mr. R. H. Thompson, speaking in support, suggested that if necessary the case should be taken to the High Court.

The motion was carried.

### Shortage of Fertilizers.

The problem of the shortage of fertilizers was dealt with at the last week of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce.

It was reported that further request had been sent to Tasmanian members in the Federal Parliament, asking that they pursue this matter with the Minister for Agriculture and Commerce (Mr. Scully). Better supplies of superphosphate were needed for Tasmania.

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Westralian Farmers Ltd.,  
Wellington St., Perth.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA:**  
Elder Smith & Co. Ltd.,  
Currie St., Adelaide.



### TASMANIAN SHIPPING FACILITIES.

The Cygnet Council, while agreeing with Mr. St. Hill's report that it would be a waste of money to spend over £17,000 on renewals at the deep

water pier at Cygnet, recommends the construction of a new wharf on a site nearer the township. The Council holds the view that the continuance of deep water facilities at Cygnet is justified. Interstate shipments from Cygnet saved an average of 4d. per case over fruit transferred to Hobart or Port Huon. Much handling would also be saved, enabling the fruit to arrive at destination in better condition.

### Port Huon.

The Esperance Council approves that portion of the report by Mr. St. Hill, wherein it is recommended that deep water facilities should be retained at Port Huon and Port Cygnet. However, the Council does not deem it advisable to reduce the capacity of the present pier at Port Huon; instead, that immediate steps should be taken to provide sufficient accommodation for overseas shipments. This work was valuable and should form a definite part of the decentralisation policy of the Federal and State Governments, rather than to concentrate on Hobart

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(Incorporated in N.S.W.)

### MAIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR 1945-46.

During the period of the war, the production of Maize for grain, has declined for various reasons from a level of approximately 20,000 acres to about 7,000 acres a year. There has been a tendency to overlook the fact that Maize has an important part to play in maintaining a properly balanced food front.

This point is made by officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture who direct attention to the fact that Maize is the basis of certain breakfast foods—maizena, starch, glucose, nutro-oil, and various high-grade stock foods. For many years, it was the chief cash crop on the rich river flats of Eastern Gippsland.

This year, Victoria has been asked to produce 12,500 acres of Maize for harvesting as grain. It is hoped that those farmers who possess the equipment, experience and soil necessary to the growth of prolific crops of Maize will devote an increased attention to the production of this important crop.

Present ceiling prices for Maize are:—White-grained sorts, including Hickory King: 8/6 per bush., other than white-grained sorts 8/- per bush.

## PATENTS

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# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT-GROWERS' AND MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Executive of the above Association was held on June 29, 1945.

Mr. R. A. Cramond, President of the Association, presided over the meeting which was attended by the following Committeemen: — Messrs. H. B. Robson, G. H. Schultz, C. H. Ragless, W. J. Bishop, C. J. Pitt, O. Esselbach, G. Jennings, A. O. Petersen, A. L. Green, G. Clifton, O. A. Carlsson, S. Walker, A. D. McAllan, C. J. Willsmore, L. G. Pethick, W. Wye, R. B. Pritchard, J. R. Williams, M. Tilley, C. Ridley, L. B. Pfeiffer, J. B. Randell, N. Hobbs, W. Nicol, L. Winsor, C. B. Robin, H. N. Western, M. G. Hannaford, L. J. Wicks, and the Secretary (A. Stuart). Mr. A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist, was also present. Apologies were received from Messrs. W. W. Ind, A. R. Martin and R. James.

The minutes of the previous meeting as reported in the "Fruit World" were confirmed.

### Sectional and Branch Reports.

**Society:** Mr. Bishop reported record business for the year. The building operations at the new premises were going along very slowly, and it was very doubtful whether the annual meeting could be held in the new premises.

**Celery Section:** Mr. Ridley reported that the market was firm and supplies were coming forward regularly.

**Citrus Section:** Mr. Esselbach reported that things were going along satisfactorily, and that a meeting of Plains Growers had been held recently when Mr. J. Medley explained the requirements of the Citrus Control Order for this season.

**Potato Section:** Mr. Pitt reported that in company with Mr. Kentish he had waited on the Minister of Commerce in Canberra to discuss what the Government had in mind for control of Potatoes after the war. The South Australian scheme was submitted to him, and he was very sympathetic to them. Mr. Pitt said that at a largely attended meeting of growers held at Woodside on June 28, it was recommended that Grower Control of the Industry in the post-war period was essential, and we should

meet the Premier (Mr. Playford) to ascertain what assistance the State Government can give to implement the plan, otherwise the control after the war may result in chaos. At this juncture, Mr. Pitt moved and Mr. Bishop seconded the following motion:—

"This Association is firmly of the opinion that post-war grower control of the Potato industry is not only desirable but imperative. It further solidly supports the plan presented by South Australia for the post-war reconstruction of the Potato industry on a Federal basis, and recommends that a deputation from this Association meet the Premier of South Australia and place before him the Association desires in this matter, and ascertain the attitude of the S.A. Government to the proposals, and to what extent it is prepared by legislation to implement the plan." Carried.

**Apple and Pear Section:** Mr. Winsor reported that prices were still high and that the position in respect to export trade after the war was being watched.

**Stone Fruit Section:** Mr. Pethick reported that things were quiet at present. Mr. Stuart suggested that a Committee be appointed to discuss the prices of stone fruit with the Prices Branch. It was decided to ask the Soft Fruit and Cherry Section to nominate two members to act with the chairman on this Committee.

**Vegetable Section:** Mr. Stuart explained that this was a new section and had encountered difficulties from the start of its activities. New vegetable prices had been submitted to the Prices Commissioner which they were hoping would receive favourable consideration. The chairman extended a welcome to the delegates from the Vegetable Section, and also to Mr. Robin from the Barossa Branch. Mr. Willsmore supported Mr. Stuart's remarks in reference to the stabilising of prices in the market, and also the circulation of a price ticket, which was satisfactory to both the growers and the wholesale merchants.

**Barossa Branch:** Mr. Robin thanked the chairman for his welcome to the meeting and stated that it was a slack time of the year, but Carrots were doing well where water was available. He asked if there was a ceiling price to retailers, and he was informed that wholesale and retail prices were definitely fixed by National Security.

**Marion Branch:** Mr. H. Western said there was little to report from the Marion Branch. Almonds being the main thing at present, and he thought that growers in the Torrens Valley would benefit by disposing of their products through the society.

**Onkaparinga Branch:** Mr. Pfeiffer said there was little to report, but a good meeting was held on June 28, on which Mr. Pitt reported earlier. Messrs. Pitt and Stuart addressed the members. He thought the growers could be organised better. There was still a talk of a scarcity of Potatoes, but whether transport or the margin of profit was responsible he could not say. Mr. Stuart said it was no fault of the Potato Control. The retailers stated that the margins were

not enough, and were not handling the Potatoes. Despite talk of the scarcity the consumption for South Australia was higher than any other time in history.

**Port Pirie Branch:** Mr. Stuart reported that Mr. Prest, of the new Port Pirie Branch was in town during the week, and he stated there was definite optimism amongst members and benefits had been yielded already. They were trying to organise the Nelshaby District to join up with the Association.

**Cudlee Creek Branch:** Mr. Hannaford reported that Apples were still selling freely and everything was going on satisfactorily.

### D.D.T. and Its Uses.

Talk by Mr. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist, S.A.

At this stage Mr. Strickland gave an interesting talk on D.D.T. and its various uses.

He said that it was first discovered by a German Chemist in 1874, but had been forgotten until the outbreak of the present war. In 1941 it was patented by a Swiss Chemist. It was a white floury substance with a pleasant smell. It has been used extensively by all armies in the present war for the eradication of insects, such as lice, flies and mosquitoes. It was also used in Naples, after its occupation by the Allies to prevent typhus fever. It was found that it was not injurious to the people and controlled the lice. It had also been used in tropical areas to destroy mosquitoes. It was dropped from aeroplanes in containers in which was stored gas and D.D.T. Results proved to be very satisfactory, killing all insects and it was employed to clear the area before troops went into it.

It is now coming into general use, and might soon be adopted in all public areas, and would be used for agricultural areas and household sprays. It was found that although it would kill large numbers of insects others it would not kill. For instance, it was not affecting the red spider. Another instance was that it was killing bees, and in that instance it would have to be watched and not put on the plant in the period when it is liable to destroy the bees. There is not much chance of plant injury with D.D.T. D.D.T. is not soluble in water. Experiments in America showed that Oranges sprayed had a fairly good kill of insects, and those who escaped could not live on the Oranges three months later.

As to the effect on human beings, it has been found that used as a dust it cannot be absorbed in the skin, but mixed with oil it can be absorbed through the skin. Used as a liquid it can be dangerous to health as it settles on the kidneys.

It is used as a dust on vegetable crops and is fairly effective with the exception of aphids on Cabbage. On the other hand good results have been obtained with aphids on Peaches. Quite possibly the D.D.T. kills insects that destroy aphids on Cabbage. Very encouraging results have been obtained with tests against codling moth.

The following is the result of a test conducted at a South Australian orchard recently:—

Spray with 1 per cent. D.D.T. with water, 43 per cent.

Half schedule every second spray omitted, 38 per cent.

Lead arsenate spray schedule, 13 per cent.

D.D.T. will not be available to the public for some time, as the biggest percentage is going to the Forces and a little retained for experimental purpose.

Another insecticide (known at 666) has come into the limelight lately. This appears as if it might oust D.D.T. as it is more effective. It might not be as useful as D.D.T. as a fly spray on account of its smell (musty). It has been found that it is ten times as effective as D.D.T. against grasshoppers. Mr. Strickland said he hoped to test out 666 against D.D.T. in the coming season, against codling moth and other fruit and vegetable pests. The main thing, the speaker pointed out, was to avoid killing insects that may in their own way be controlling the pests.

Many questions were asked by members, and Mr. Strickland supplied the information required.

Mr. Winsor moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Strickland for his very informative talk. This was seconded by Mr. Robson and carried by acclamation.

**Financial Statements:** The Secretary submitted the financial statement which was received.

**Delegation to Premier:** Messrs. Pitt and Schultz moved that the chairman and the chairman of the Potato Branches be appointed as a delegation to meet the Premier to discuss Potato Control. This was carried and the following members were appointed. Messrs. Bishop, Pitt, Kentish and Pfeiffer.

### POTATO MOTH.

As the Potato moth in certain seasons may cause losses of up to 60 per cent. of early Potato crops, and from 25 to 40 per cent. in mid-season or late crops, all measures which will reduce these losses to a minimum should be taken.

Measures to be taken at present, and recommended by the Biological Branch of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, are:

(a) Moulding—Moulding of crops should be carefully carried out to protect the tubers forming underground. With a variety Up-to-date, which normally produces its tubers close to the surface, such mouldings should be carefully carried out and need to be wide and shallow rather than high and narrow.

(b) Digging—After digging, bag the Potatoes as soon as possible. The practice of placing a fork of dried haulms on top of the sewn or unsewn bags is a bad one. It is much better to sew the bag at once, and turn it upside down.

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Australian Fruit Marketing Association was held at Adelaide on June 22.

There were present: J. B. Randell (Chairman), F. F. Redden, R. G. Hannaford, W. W. Miller, R. B. Pritchard, R. H. A. Lewis, A. Filsell, M. G. Basey, P. R. B. Searcy, H. N. Wicks, R. A. Cramond, C. L. Winsor, A. Brealey, S. M. James, A. G. Strickland, L. J. Bishop, L. G. Heading-Beatty and E. W. Mills, Secretary.

**Finance:** Financial statement showing balance in banks, £35/16/9 was received. It was agreed that the Secretary's salary be fixed on the basis of ten pounds (£10) for each meeting held.

**Correspondence:** Letter dated February 2 from Dept. of Agriculture, giving quantities of Apples and Pears in cold store at the end of each month from August, 1943, to December, 1944. Letter from L. R. Moss, Sydney, re Apple consignments, etc. Letter from Export Development Group dated March 15, in reply to Association letter of January 27. The question of membership was further discussed, and it was agreed to defer the matter for consideration at the next meeting.

**Post-war Export:** Mr. A. Filsell explained that a meeting of the Cold Stores Association held recently had discussed the advisability of having one body to represent the whole of the industry, instead of the various bodies in existence at the present

time; no concrete proposals were considered, but it was thought advisable to take preliminary steps towards creating such an organisation. The Cold Stores' Association claim to represent 80 per cent. of the Apple export.

A lengthy discussion followed, the speakers being Messrs. J. B. Randell, P. R. B. Searcy, C. L. Winsor, H. N. Wicks, L. G. Heading and L. J. Bishop, it was generally agreed that one organisation was desirable, but there was a difference of opinion as to how this could best be brought about, representatives of organisations present at the meeting strongly advocated their Associations as being most suitable for the purpose. It was agreed to hold another meeting to further discuss the matter on July 20,

and in the meantime Mr. L. G. Heading agreed to supply copies of the constitution of the S.A. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, together with such information in regard to the Chamber as might be useful to be sent out to members to enable them to study the Constitution of the Chamber prior to the July meeting.

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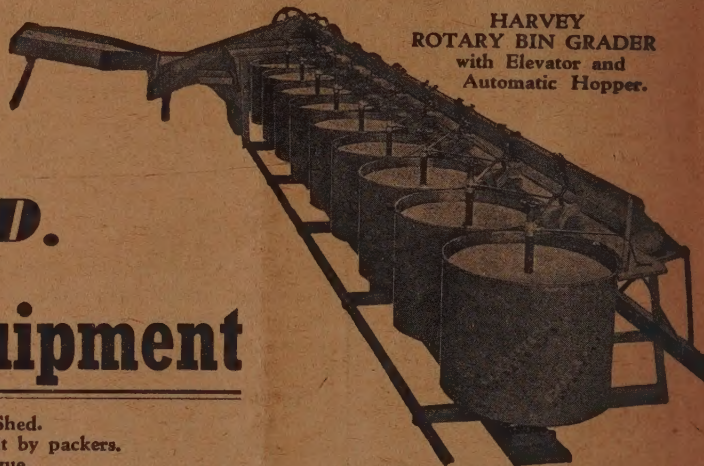
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WAXING PLANTS

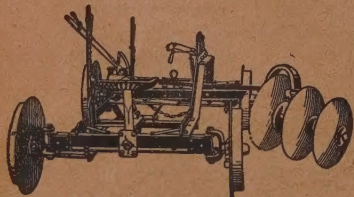
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## Queensland News and Notes

**Heavy Vegetable Plantings and Problems of Reduced Service Demands — Growers and Trade Confer on Distribution — North Queensland and Other Fruit Train Problems — Congestion at Clapham and Darling Harbour — Floods Cause Damage — Cool Store Needed at Applethorpe — Protest Against Reduced Orange Ceiling Price — Pineapple, Banana, and Strawberry Trade.**

**N**ORTH QUEENSLAND vegetable growers are feeling severely the reduction in Service demands, and during June deliveries of varieties such as Lettuce, Cabbage, Tomatoes and Beans were far in excess of requirements. The only varieties that can be transported south are Tomatoes and Cucumbers, but the distance is so great from the main markets of Brisbane and Sydney that growers will have to exercise the greatest care in selection and packing if they are to take advantage of these outlets. Arrangements have been made by the C.O.D. for trucks to be available at Cairns for connection with the northern fruit specials loading for southern markets at Bowen.

### Heavy Production.

Growers will be entirely dependent on local markets for the balance of their production. Numerous general farmers—Maize, Tobacco and Cane growers and dairymen—responded to the appeal to increase vegetable production to relieve as far as possible the tremendous strain on the Queensland railways and to give the Services a maximum supply of freshly harvested vegetables, particularly greens. Demand is now approaching normal and the industry must rapidly readjust its affairs. This can most speedily be achieved by general farmers again concentrating on their regular production. In the meantime, the industry faces a serious marketing problem.

### Growers and Trade Confer.

In an effort to secure maximum consumption at retail prices not unreasonably exceeding wholesale values the Cairns manager of the C.O.D. called a conference of all sections of the industry and consumers. At this conference there was an attendance of over 50, representing 16 organisations, with the deputy mayor in the chair. It was recognised by the grower representatives that they would have to be prepared to accept lower prices than have operated over the past few years. The retailers agreed to co-operate, but many may find it difficult to reduce their margins as there are now too many fruit and vegetable retailers in Cairns. A weakness in Cairns is that the retailers are concentrated in the main city area at the expense of the suburbs which are poorly served.

Housewives have to collect most of their purchases of household goods, except ice, as a result have a tendency to reduce their purchases of fruit and vegetables. The Conference appointed a committee of growers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers to co-operate with the C.O.D.

### Fruit Train Problems.

Both the Cairns and Townsville markets were again oversupplied in June with citrus, mainly Emperor Mandarins. Bowen and Home Hill districts were busily engaged with Tomato and Cucumber harvesting. Very heavy loadings were made for Sydney, which, with big consignments of South Queensland Pineapples, caused serious congestion at Clapham at the end of the third week in June, when some 1,400 tons of fruit and vegetables arrived for southern markets. Clapham is the centre where southern consignments are transhipped from the narrow gauge Queensland railway waggons to those of N.S.W. In south Queensland loadings for interstate markets are made twice weekly, whilst Bowen and north have for many years had only one train.

Previous efforts by the C.O.D. to establish two northern fruit specials weekly, proved unsuccessful, due mainly to opposition by the Sydney trade, and a failure on the part of many northern growers to realise the congestion that is caused at Clapham and in the Darling Harbour yards at Sydney when the whole of a week's northern output arrives on a single day. The Sydney trade has argued that two arrivals a week from North Queensland would disorganise the market, but it has never been explained why other districts with more frequent deliveries do not disorganise the markets!

Immediately following this abnormally heavy loading, the C.O.D. arranged with the Queensland railways to run a second weekly train from the north. It is hoped northern growers give this train reasonable co-operation, as, unless the work can be spread at Clapham, labour trouble is anticipated which would affect not only northern growers, but also South Queensland growers who regularly load twice weekly.

Several inches of rain at Bowen in the middle of June should ensure a continuance of heavy Tomato loadings.

### Effects of Floods.

Most of the State's main fruit and vegetable districts escaped the effects of the disturbance which caused such disastrous floods in northern N.S.W. The Border district, however, did suffer and Nerang received over 12 inches in 24 hours. Banana harvesting was interfered with. The flood rains ended a period of some three weeks of light rains which held up Bean plantings in some of the main winter producing areas of South Queensland, and also caused losses through Beans breaking down in transit to market. The South Queensland Tomato crop was probably the worst hit. Neither sprays nor dusts were effective over this period with the result that many crops were ruined. Cauliflowers also suffered to a marked degree.

Towards the middle of June the Winter Pineapple crop commenced in earnest, and on the 15th of the month over 20,000 cases were loaded for the southern markets, on this train Adelaide received 1,800 cases—probably a record. Fortunately, all markets were responsive, and Pineapples were greatly assisted by the shortage of Apples and citrus, and the temporary easing of Banana loadings on account of the N.S.W. floods. Immediate steps were taken by the C.O.D. to restore the diversion scheme, which provides for half the crop going to canneries.

The Orange crop in South Queensland is light, but the market has been

well supplied with Mandarins, substantial consignments of which have been made to Melbourne from Howard and Burrum and to Sydney from Gayndah. Gayndah is the only district with a good citrus crop, and some orchards have an excellent crop both of Mandarins and Lemons. On behalf of the citrus S.G.C., the C.O.D. protested to the Prices Commissioner on the reduction of the Orange ceiling and the Mandarin ceiling. A restoration of last year's Orange ceilings was requested and a Mandarin ceiling of 30/-, with no retail ceiling. The elimination of a retail ceiling was recommended to give the retail trade its full margin without any scaling down of wholesale prices of large fruit. Queensland produces some extraordinary large Mandarins, particularly of the Ellendale variety, and a prices regulation is anomalous, which gives a grower a smaller nett return for a large than for a medium sized fruit.

The continued rains caused losses from blue mould in all varieties of citrus.

### Cool Store at Applethorpe Needed.

During the month a delegation from the C.O.D. and the Queensland Council of Agriculture visited Canberra to submit a case for review of the decision by W.O.I., refusing the C.O.D. application on behalf of the Deciduous S.G.C. to erect a 20,000 case cold store and pre-cooling plant at Applethorpe. This plant was designed as an initial move to provide the north

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## QUEENSLAND NEWS AND

## NOTES—(Continued).

and north-west with fruit and vegetables, pre-cooled and transported in refrigerated waggons.

Losses during the Summer months in consignments to Cairns, Townville, Mt. Isa, and other centres, are particularly heavy, and this position must be remedied. Mt. Isa mines already have their own cold store, with cool rooms at Cairns and Townsville, the C.O.D. only requires a cold store in the Stanthorpe district, and the co-operation of the Railway Department to give an effective distribution system to the north and north-west.

## Important Strawberry Trade.

Early Strawberries realised as high as 6/- per box on the Brisbane markets, but the loss of the American demand will doubtless lead to much low-

er values than last year. Large quantities of Winter Strawberries are rail-er values than last year. Large quantities of Winter Strawberries are rail-

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## QUEENSLAND PINEAPPLES.

## Canning Problems.

Crop prospects during the next few months seem to be better than they were this time last year. Most of the fruit, however, will be harvested from now till September, and supplies will be insufficient for market requirements from then on. The weather in Queensland has been extremely mild this year and up to the end of the third week in June, there has been no Winter weather at all. As a result of this, the crop has ripened considerably earlier than normal, and very large quantities of fruit, a record in fact, were consigned to interstate markets during the weekend, June 15 to 18, and canneries have again commenced processing. As the industry has substantial service orders to fill from this crop, Pineapples are again being voluntarily diverted by growers to enable these orders to be processed.

Some difficulty is being experienced by the canneries in securing sufficient labour, particularly female labour to handle the fruit, so that factories with a normal capacity of 40,000 cases per week were unable to process more than 6,000 cases week ended June 23, whereas it will be necessary for them to process at least 17,000 cases if service orders are to be filled.

The canneries only require an additional 60 women to reach this target, but at the time of writing there is no indication that this labour will be available. The authorities concerned are a little grieved that the fruit has been inconsiderate enough to ripen so quickly that the labour is required at

short notice, but that is how it happens. It will be necessary for everybody concerned to get used to this characteristic, otherwise there will be another instance to be placed on record of a good Australian product being wasted through lack of proper organisation.

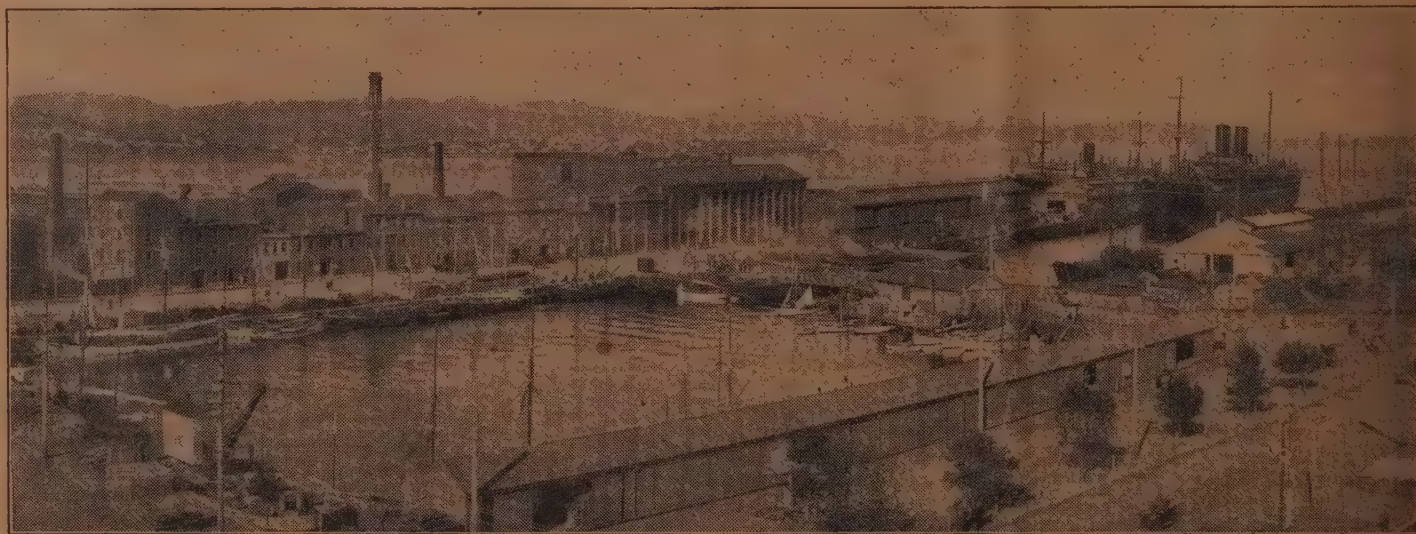
## PERSONAL.

Early in August, Mr. Charles K. Gamble, Chairman and Managing Director of the Vacuum Oil Company Pty. Ltd., since 1938, will return to New York to take up a high executive position in an associated oil company there. He will be succeeded by Mr. Harold Rabling, an Australian, who has been Resident Director of the Company in New York for the last seven years.

For many years Mr. Gamble has been a well-known figure in business and other circles in this country. He first came to Australia nearly eighteen years ago, when he joined the Vacuum Oil Company in Melbourne. He fought with the American Army in the last world war. Possessing exceptional executive capacity, and with a sound scholastic background, Mr. Gamble rapidly rose in his calling. He visited some of the main world oil fields. He was elected to the Board of the Vacuum Oil Co. in 1931, and became managing director in 1933.

He took an active part in organising the Australian Comforts Fund, and assisted the Red Cross and other patriotic efforts.

He leaves behind him in Australia and New Zealand a wide circle of friends.



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# Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

## BOUNTIFUL RAINS — PRUNING — MANURING — HELPFUL SPRAYING HINTS.

THE BEST NEWS for the month is the breaking of the long disastrous drought. The splendid rains which have fallen during the last fortnight, have thoroughly soaked the soil, and has revived hope and put fresh heart into those gallant people who so loyally stuck to their farms in such trying conditions, and our hearts go up in thankfulness to the Divine Creator of the universe from Whom all goodness comes.

Altogether the Goulburn Valley had about 3 inches of steady rain which has been of inestimable benefit to the orchards and especially the pastures, where the response from the rain has been truly remarkable. The brown dry earth being turned to a soft green in the course of a few days, and sheep feed is already available.

Great activity is taking place on farms putting in the oat and wheat crop, while the conditions are so favourable for a good strike and we hope for a bountiful harvest.

The rainfall in the catchment areas has not been heavy, but sufficient to set streams running which will result in a gradual filling up of weirs, and with more rains to follow, should make irrigation supplies safe for another season.

More superphosphate is being released this season for fruit growers: this is being rationed out at the rate of 1 cwt. per acre.

Young fruit trees from the nurseries are almost unprocurable. In Pear varieties there will be no stock available in any quantity till 1947.

This condition has been brought about by lack of manpower during the war years, also a shortage of Pears seeds for striking young stock trees for budding.

Pruning operations are still proceeding, but most growers are understaffed with experienced pruners, and there is still a tremendous amount of trees still to prune.

July is the month to start spraying for the green aphid pest with tar distillate sprays and Winter-sol: growers are urged to get this spray on the trees before the end of the month, for should we get a wet Spring there is likely to be a heavy infestation of green aphids.

Fruitgrowers cannot expect any relief during the coming season from the present shortage of nicotine sulphate as supplies may be even shorter than in the past season.

Horticultural Officers of the Department of Agriculture point out that this shortage emphasises the value of Winter control measures for several insect pests, for which nicotine sulphate used in the Summer might be regarded as an alternative method of control.

The

### green Peach aphid

can be completely controlled by a thorough application of tar distillate and similar sprays between the middle and end of July. The same applies to the Black Cherry aphid, and there should be no need to come back to nicotine sulphate in the Summer months.

Aphid on Pears and Plums have a different life history and can be con-

trolled only by Spring and Summer applications of nicotine sulphate, so that any available supplies should be kept for that purpose.

Red Spider, common on all deciduous fruits, can be controlled by Winter spraying with lime sulphur or red oil.

During the Summer white oil may be used as an alternative to nicotine sulphate.

During the past season woolly aphis was troublesome on Apples due to the unfavourable conditions for the wasp parasite, which normally keeps it in check.

A Winter spraying with red oil would be advisable to reduce the population of the pest. Apple leaf hoppers (Jassids), which were so prevalent last season in parts of the north-eastern districts and at Bacchus Marsh, present a problem as there is no known alternative to nicotine sulphate. It would be advisable to prune out and burn as much young wood as possible as over-wintering eggs of the leaf hopper are deposited under the bark of the current season's growth: any available nicotine sulphate spray should be used in the calyx spray and again about one month later.

## FODDER CONSERVATION COMPETITIONS IN VICTORIA.

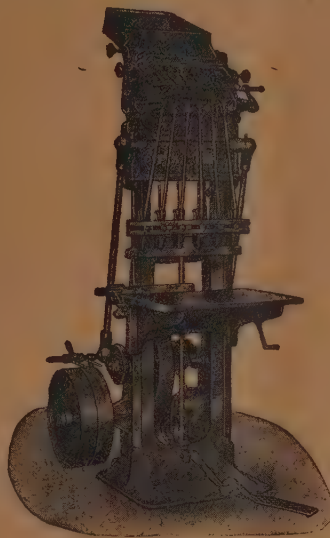
State Government Grant.

The Minister of Agric. in Victoria (Mr. N. A. Martin) announced that the State Government had decided to again make a grant of £300 to the Royal Agric. Society of Victoria for the conduct of fodder conservation competitions.

The society conducts district competitions in which prizes are awarded for the amount and quality of fodder conserved and the adequacy of the amount relative to the number of stock carried. Subsequently six

State championships are awarded for the principal types of farming.

Mr. Martin pointed out that these competitions are a means of stimulating interest in fodder conservation, and he regarded it as desirable that they should be continued.



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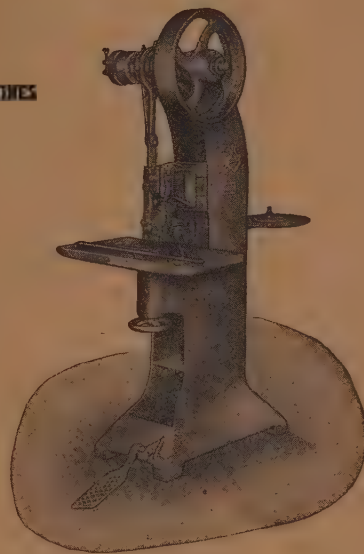
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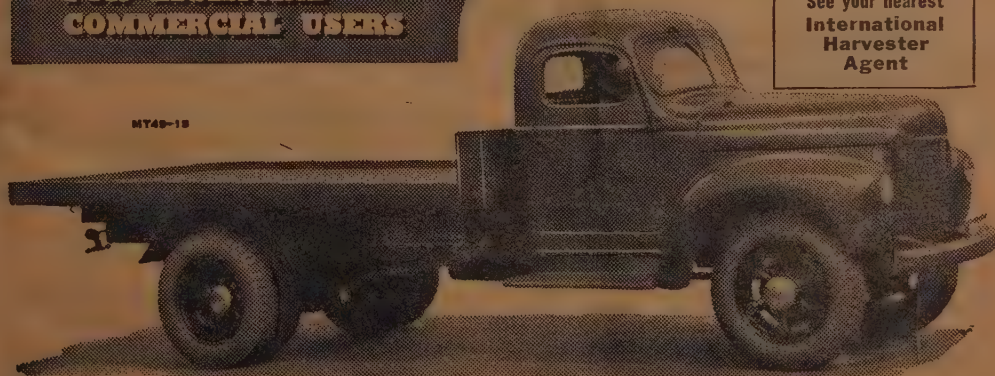


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## N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association

*Australian-wide Organisation Favoured — Higher Priority for Fruitgrowers — Hail Insurance — Spraying, Irrigation, Cases, etc. — Registration of Nurseries.*

### IMPORTANT ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The third annual conference of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association was held at the Dept. of Agric., Sydney, on June 27.

There were present: Messrs. W. B. Pascoe (Orange), chairman, A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A. (Leeton), A. A. Wilkinson (Uralla), T. T. Allard (Ryde), A. Woolard, E. Ray and H. V. Hollis (Bathurst); P. C. Cox (Griffith); R. J. Armstrong, E. Griffith and K. Spurway (Orange); N. C. Green (Dural); J. Sedgwick, P. B. Mackenzie, O. J. Butz (Batlow); E. J. Sell (Young); J. R. Hands, H. S. Paine and M. Rose (Penrose); B. Rasdall (Secretary); R. Mallinson (Griffith); S. D. Robertson, G. Jolly N. Broadfoot, C. G. Savage (Dept. of Agric.); K. H. Stevenson (G. Co-op. Sales).

Apologies were received from the Hon. E. H. Graham, Minister for Agriculture, Mr. H. V. Smith (Batlow), Mr. A. E. Herring (Batlow).

The annual report was read by the chairman, and on the motion of Mr. W. B. Pascoe, seconded by Mr. Rose, and supported by Mr. Ray, was adopted.

The financial statement showing a credit balance of £98/0/1, after paying expenses of £208/10/3, was adopted.

It was decided that the constitution be altered to provide for a council of nine (9), in addition to the chair-

man and vice-chairman, and from this council an executive committee of three (3) be empowered to deal with urgent problems, where it was found impossible to consult other members of the council.

Major Carl Fellers of the U.S. Army delivered an address entitled "Apples as You Like Them." This talk was most informative, as Major Fellers proceeded to give the analysis of an Apple for its food values. This was followed by some information on the process products of Apples. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A., supported by E. Ray, and carried with enthusiastic acclamation.

Resolutions were carried as follows:—

"That this conference express appreciation of the decision of the Minister for Agriculture in agreeing to introduce the duplicate docket system at the city markets, and further, that this decision be conveyed by letter with a request that the introduction be made at the earliest opportunity."

"That Messrs. Broadfoot and Whitaker (Dept. of Agric.), be heartily thanked for their valuable review of the industry as recorded in their recent publication."

"That the Prices Branch be requested to arrange for test weighings of the varying varieties of Pears in

addition to the test weighings now being carried out on Apples.

"That the Prices Commissioner be asked to fix varying ceiling prices for Apples and Pears sold in different packages such as the Australian dump case, and the long bushel Pear case, etc."

"That this Association is not in favour of Saturday closing of the city markets during Winter months or any other time of the year."

"That with an object to reviewing the post-war future of the industry, the Minister for Agriculture, be requested to explore the possibilities of arranging an Australian conference of Apple and Pear growers, together with Departmental experts, and the Dept. Commerce and Agric."

"That this Association initiate, and contact organisations of Apple and Pear growers in other States, with a view to forming a Commonwealth organisation of Apple and Pear Growers."

"That the State Premier be asked to submit a proposal which would enable fruitgrowers to obtain hail damage insurance through the State Government Insurance Office."

"That the Dept. of Agric. be asked to investigate new methods of checking codling moth and to ascertain if the quality of arsenate of lead at present being supplied to growers is of an inferior grade."

"That the Dept. of Agric. and Commerce, be informed that there is an acute shortage of farm engines and machinery, and that arrangements be made for increased supplies to enable fruit growers to maintain their orchards and control pests and diseases."

"That the Dept. of Commerce and Agric. be informed of the shortage of suitable case making timber, and that in order to conserve available supplies in Australia of suitable timbers, immediately shipping conditions improve, hemlock timber be imported from Canada for the purpose of making fruit cases."

"That in view of the limited supplies of lime available to orchardists, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture be asked to ensure that supplies be made accessible to orchardists."

"That the Council of the Association be asked to investigate means of facilitating the payment of claims made on the Apple and Pear Board for fruit acquired during acquisition."

"That the priority for orchardists be raised to at least that of vegetable growers to enable supplies of fertilizers to be obtained, and that other essential supplies also be placed on a higher priority."

"That as the Government has licensed slaughter yards for horses, proper equipment be made available to these establishments for purpose of treating blood and offal into blood and bone fertilizer."

At the request of Mr. Paine, the Association was asked to advise the Department of Agriculture that supplies of horse feed were not available to orchardists in the district of Penrose.

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"That before steps are taken by vote of thanks was moved by Mr the Commonwealth Government for the revival of the Australian Apple and Pear Board, as stated under the Apple and Pear Organisation Act of 1938, fruitgrowers' organisations be consulted prior to an allocation of members to the Board. Further, that the chairman of such Board be a fruit-grower or an officer of a bona fide fruitgrowers' organisation."

"That in view of the disaster caused by the recent drought, the Commonwealth Government be approached and asked to provide suitable earth removing machinery enabling farmers and orchardists to construct dams on their properties for conserving rain water."

"That the State Dept. Agric. be asked to frame a legislation licensing all nurseries, and that nurseries be supervised by the Dept."

The conference concluded with an address by Mr. A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A., in which he defined the duties of managers and directors in co-operative undertakings. A very hearty

Armstrong, and supported by E. Ray, carried with acclamation.

The election of officers resulted in the following:—Chairman: Mr. W. B. Pascoe (Orange); Vice-Chairman: Mr. H. V. Smith (Batlow). Executive: Messrs. A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A. (Leeton), P. C. Cox (Griffith), A. A. Wilkinson (Uralla), E. Ray (Bathurst), R. J. Armstrong (Orange), O. J. Butz (Batlow), M. Rose (Penrose), E. J. Sell Young, N. C. Green Dural).

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# Vegetable Grower

## POTATO CONTRACTS.

In the 1944-45 season, Victorian Potato Growers were asked to contract for the production of 94,000 acres of Potatoes.

During the present season, Victorian growers are being asked to plant under contract, 86,000 acres of Potatoes.

This year three separate contracts covering early, midseason and late plantings will be available. The early plantings period is that prior to August 15, and is expected to cater for those Potatoes which come on to the market in November and December.

The midseason period covers those Potatoes planted between August 16 and October 31, and is designed to cover those Potatoes normally marketed between January 1 and May 31, while the late planting period covers those Potatoes which normally are marketed after June 1, and which may be planted between October 1 and January 31.

In the past year midseason production has been too great in relation to late season production, and an attempt will be made this year to restore a better balance between the two.

In order to effect the contracts will not be sent to growers until the Department of Agriculture has had an opportunity to examine the total applications for the respective planting periods.

All registered Potato growers have received or will receive a form on which to apply for a Potato contract. Growers should complete this form at the earliest possible date and post it to the Department of Agriculture, Melbourne, endorsing the envelope with the words "Potato Contract." Those people making application for early contracts will have lodged application forms prior to June 15; while those applying for midseason or late contracts must return their application forms before July 15. People making application before these dates will receive preference over late applicants.

The price payable for Potatoes under the 1945-46 contract will be the same as that under the 1944-45 contract, namely £12 or £12/10/- per ton, Melbourne, according to the variety of the Potato.

As it may not be possible to accept all applications for a Potato contract, intending growers are advised to lodge their applications early.

Intending growers who have not previously held a contract should apply to the Department of Agriculture for an application form.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN.

THE THREE MAIN plant foods derived from soil are nitrogen, potash and phosphates; but there are also other ingredients which are necessary, although not in such large amounts.

When we grow vegetables for their leaves, we should use fertilisers rich in nitrogen, but which contain also some degree of phosphoric acid and potash. If we grow them for their roots, as in the case of Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips, or for their tubers, as in the case of Potatoes, Jerusalem Artichokes and Sweet Potatoes, then we must be sure to include a larger helping of potash than is needed for other classes of vegetables.

Probably the lack of potash accounts for more troubles than the need of other constituent, because most gardeners use animal manure which is fairly rich in nitrogen, and contains also a small amount of phosphates, but is lacking in all-important potash. If gardeners pin their faith to a complete fertiliser they can rest assured that the well-being of the plants is well cared for.

If the soil is of a very light nature, or if it is extremely heavy and lacking in humus, it is a good plan to use plenty of animal manure or thoroughly rotted vegetation, to supply the humus, then the dressings of complete fertiliser which are used subsequently, will not only promote healthy growth, but will also keep it up for an extended period.

(Continued on page 16.)



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The Chamber is prepared to receive Consignments in Bulk lots for distribution to any of these Agents. No charge will be made to the Grower for this service. Further particulars from the Secretary, E. B. P. BROOKS, Exchange Chambers, Turbot Street, Brisbane. Telegraphic Address: "Chamberfruit," B'ne.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN—(Ctd.)

The regular use of this complete fertiliser will result in vegetables that are tender and crisp, of good flavour, and rich in health-giving and very necessary vitamins.

Just at present there is plenty of work to be done in the kitchen garden, in clearing away the dead and dying remains of crops which are now past their sphere of usefulness, and in preparing the beds for the reception of crops that are more seasonable.

Apply a top-dressing of animal manure and fertiliser, and dig it at least spade deep into the soil, leaving the latter as rough as possible for the time being. When the digging has been completed, administer a good dressing of lime to the surface of each bed, and allow it to remain there for a few weeks, after which the soil can easily be worked whilst it is in a friable condition, to a tilth suitable for the reception of seeds or young plants.

Beetroot can be sown now in the warm districts, and it is a good plan to soak the seeds in warm water overnight, to hasten and assist germination. If Beetroot is to be sown in cold districts at this time of year, it will be advisable to seed out a warm and sheltered bed for the purpose. Probably the safest plan would be to sow the seeds in a warm nursery bed, and transplant the young seedlings when three or four inches high, to their permanent quarters. Sometimes more than one will emanate from each Beetroot seed that is sown, and it is always advisable to remove the weaker ones, leaving the strongest to grow on.

Young plants of Leeks can be transplanted this month—the best plan being to make shallow trenches about 18 inches to 2 feet apart, and half fill them with very rich soil, into which the young plants are set with from 9 inches to 1 foot separating them in each row. As the plants progress, the soil displaced in making the trench can be gradually brought back around the plants, in order to blanch the bottom portion white.

Although the tops should have been removed from Asparagus beds some time ago, there are always those people who put off everything until the last moment. To these folk I would say, "Do it now." If the tops have been removed, a layer of decayed animal manure should be laid on the surface and dug into the bed between the rows of plants, after which a further layer of similar manure can be placed on top to act as a mulch and to blanch the young sprouts which will be arriving with the warm weather just ahead.

Celery plants which are coming along nicely can be encouraged either by cultivating in a good helping of manure, or by the aid of liquid manure, should the weather be dry.

Sweet Potato tubers should be ready to lift. This can be decided by cutting out a portion of one of the tubers, and if it remains white it is safe to lift the clumps, but should it turn green or nearly black, they must be left a while longer. Store those not required for immediate use, in a dry place.



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In most districts, young Onions can be planted out with safety. Take care not to bury the plants too deeply—the roots alone should be covered at transplanting time. Sometimes the young plants will not stand up at once, but they soon recover and assume a vertical position. If they are planted too deeply, Onions often fail to make shapely bulbs.

This is a good month for the sowing of Carrots and Parsnips, both of which do far better when sown now than at any other time of year, although they have a fairly long sowing period.

In choosing the variety of Cabbage to plant out during this month, rely more on the smaller kinds which mature quickly, although "Succession" is one variety that can be planted safely at almost any time of year.

Those who have not as yet planted their requirements in Strawberry runners, should do so immediately. They can be planted in narrow beds so that there is no need to walk on the soil when picking the fruits. I have consistently recommended the variety known as Hawkesbury, and I'm pleased to say that it is living up to the raiser's description. It has already proved that it is of undoubted value for commercial purposes, as well as for home use. The plants grow strongly and fruit abundantly—clusters of eight berries being quite usual. They are borne over a long period, which begins early and finishes late, and last season this variety topped the prices at market consistently.

Seed Potatoes can be planted this month, either on new ground or on soil that contains plenty of humus and plant food.

In beds that have been lying fallow, the present is an ideal time to stock up with Kohl Rabi, Carrots, Parsnips, Beetroot and other root crops, whilst the time is also opportune for sowing seeds or planting seedlings of that very useful and health-giving vegetable called Silver Beet.

Seeds of Herbs can be sown now, on well-drained free soil, that is not of too rich a character. The most serviceable varieties are Sage, Thyme, Marjoram and Parsley.

### VICTORIAN HORTICULTURAL CONDITIONS FOR JUNE, 1945.

Widespread rains which fell during June have done much to improve conditions on orchards, states the monthly report of the Victorian Department of Agriculture. Subsoil moisture has been replenished, and water storages have benefited.

The main work on orchards at present is pruning, but there is plenty of evidence that winter spraying is necessary on many properties. Red oil sprays are required for Bryobia Mite; Woolly Aphis and scale insects. Tar distillate or DNC sprays are required for the control of the green Peach aphids on Peach and Nectarine trees. Numerous aphid eggs can now be found on these trees.

Bud development in all kinds of deciduous fruits, except Pears, points to good crops next season.

The recent rains have been beneficial to the growth of green manure crops, particularly in the Goulburn and Murray Valley areas.

Many fruitgrowers intending to plant out new areas have been disappointed because of the acute shortage of young trees. Considerable quantities of berry fruits have been planted out in the Wandin and Silvan districts.

Pruning in the dried vine fruit districts has been delayed because of the amount of foliage remaining on the vines. Many growers are experiencing difficulty in pruning wind damaged Sultana vines, which are lacking in suitable canes for laying down for next season's crop. Many grow-

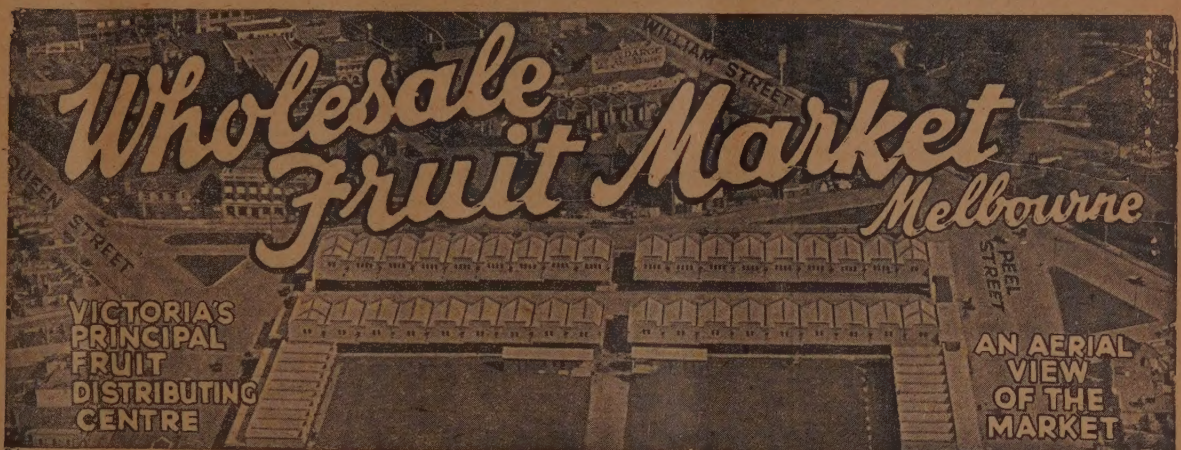
ers attended field days held in the dried fruit districts for the purpose of demonstrating methods of tackling this problem.

The harvesting of Washington Navel Oranges is continuing in the Mildura district. As a result of the heavy out of season blossoming, fruit at all stages of development can be seen on the trees. A few Thompson Navel Oranges are being picked in the Swan Hill district, but harvesting of Washington Navels there has not yet commenced. In the citrus groves of Wangaratta, some trees are

carrying fair quantities of fruits which, because of the drought, is below marketable size.

### Vegetables.

In the Mildura area, harvesting of Imperial D Lettuce is in progress. Glasshouses have been planted up with Tomatoes. Tomato seedling beds for early plantings have been established in the Goulburn Valley. Lifting of good crops of Carrots is continuing in Gippsland vegetable districts.



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# Market Notes and Prices

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (4/7/45).

The State Marketing Bureau reports as follows:—

### Fruit.

Supplies of Apples, especially red dessert varieties, were very light and, as request was keen, clearances were quickly effected. The bulk of supplies were principally Tasmanian, although small Victorian and South Australian fruit was available. The Tasmanian varieties mainly comprised Democrat, Sturmer, Crofton and Scarlet Pearmain. A few South Australian Jonathans were forward, while Rome Beauties, Dunn's Seedling, Statesman, a small quantity of Granny Smiths and a few miscellaneous varieties were received from Victoria. Rates for all varieties were firm at the maximum of 27/- per bushel.

There was an improved request for Pears and the market was firmer. Both local and Victorian Packham's Triumph sold to 28/-; this rate was also realised for Victorian Josephines. Local Winter Coles sold to 28/- and up to 24/- was paid for Victorian Winter Nelis and Beurre Bosc, with an occasional sale higher.

Passionfruit were more plentiful and values were lower.

Ruling rates were:—Apples: Interstate—Rome Beauty, 27/-; Cleo., 27/-; Dunn's Seedling, 27/-; Tasmanian—Democrat 27/-, Sturmer 27/-, Crofton and Scarlet Pearmain 27/-; Pears: New South Wales—Packham's Triumph 20/- to 28/-, Winter Cole 20/- to 28/-, very small sizes from 12/-; Victorian—Winter Nelis, 16/- to

24/-, Packham's Triumph 18/- to 28/-, Josephine 18/- to 28/-, Beurre Bosc 15/- to 25/-. Oranges: Navel—Constat 10/- to 16/-. Irrigation Area—counts 64 and upwards—12/6 to 16/-. Lemons: Coastal 8/- to 12/-, few higher. Mandarins: Emperor 8/- to 20/-, few specials 25/- per bush. case. Bananas, 7d. per lb. (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). Passionfruit, 8/- to 20/-. Custard Apples, 8/- to 12/-, few higher. Avocados, 6/- to 20/- per half case. Strawberries: Queensland, 7/- to 14/-, specials 16/- per tray; 18/- to 42/- per dozen packets. Papaws, 15/- to 30/-, specials to 35/-. Pineapples, 12/- to 18/-, occasional specials higher, per tropical case.

### Vegetables.

Peas, 23/4, few inferior lower. Beans, 20/-, mainly nominal, per bushel. Cabbages, 5/- to 16/-, choice large to 20/-, few higher. Cauliflowers, 6/- to 24/-, selected choice large to 36/-, few 40/-, inferior lower, per dozen. Lettuce, 7/- to 20/- per case. Carrots, 3/- to 6/- per dozen bunches, 18/- to 25/- per cwt. Parsnips, 4/- to 7/- per doz. bunches, 20/- to 28/- per cwt. White Turnips, 3/- to 4/-. Rhubarb, 6/- to 9/-. Spinach, 10/- to 12/-, few higher. Mint, 4/- to 6/-. Parsley, 18/- to 36/-. Beetroot, 2/- to 4/-. Celery (local), 12/- to 18/- per doz. bunches, (South Australian) Counts 20 to 30, 17/6 to 26/- per crate. Tomatoes (N.S.W.), 8/- to 14/-, choice 18/-, inferior lower; (Queensland), 12/- to 18/-, inferior from 8/- per half case. Potatoes: 1st Grade, 7/10½. Onions (Victorian), Brown, 21/- to 23/-. Swedes, 6/- to 8/-, inferior lower. Pumpkins, 9/- to 12/-. Sweet Potatoes, 16/- per

cwt. Brussels Sprouts (N.S.W.), 10/- to 15/-, few higher, per doz. lb.; (Victorian), 14/- to 20/- per box. Mushrooms (field), 1/6 to 2/6 per lb.

## VICTORIA.

Melbourne, 5/7/45.

Eating Apples brought up to the new ceiling price of 26/- case in Queen Victoria wholesale market yesterday. Citrus fruits, particularly Oranges, were in increased supply. Sales of fruit were quiet. Quotations:

### Vegetables.

Beans, French, 6d. to 11d. lb. Beetroot, 6d. to 8d. doz., max. 17/- cwt. Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz. bnchs. Cabbages, 3/- to 7/- doz. Carrots, 2/- to 3/6 doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- with tops; Cauliflowers, 4/- to 8/- doz., few to 9/-; Celery, 6/- to 8/- doz.; do., Adelaide, 15/- to 24/- dble case. Garlic, 1/3 to 1/6 lb. Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bdl. Leek, 2/- to 3/6 doz. bnchs. Lettuce, 6/- to 12/- case. Mint, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs. Melons, Citron, 6/- to 12/-; Onions, Green, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches. Parsley, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs. Parsnips, 2/6 to 3/6 doz. bnchs, max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- with tops. Peas, 30/- to 40/- 50 lb. Potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag. Pumpkins, 6/- to 24/- doz. Radish, 2/- to 2/6 doz. bnchs; Rhubarb, 3/- to 4/- doz. bnchs. Savoy, 3/- to 6/- doz. Spinach, 4/- to 6/- doz. bnchs. Sprouts, 4/- to 7/- doz. lb., few to 8/-. Tomatoes, 20/- to 32/- case. Turnips, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs; do., Swede, 10/- to 14/- bag; do., 2/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs. Vegetable Marrows, 4/- to 6/- doz.

### Fruit.

(Bushel case, unless stated.)

Apples, eating, 15/- to 24/-, few to

26/- (max.); cooking, 15/- to 23/-, few Grammy Smith to 25/-. Oranges: Navel and Valencias, to 16/6 (max.). Lemons, 16/- to 20/- (max.). Mandarins, to 25/6 (max.). Pears, dessert, Packham, 10/- to 20/- (max. 29/-); culinary, 8/- to 16/-. Papaws, 30/- to 35/- dble case. Quinces, 8/- to 10/-. Bananas, to 7½d. lb. (max.). Pineapples, to 23/9 dble case (max.). Passionfruit, 25/- to 40/- half case. Green Ginger, 1/3 lb.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide, 2/7/45.

The S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Assn. report as follows:—

### Vegetables.

Beans (French), 14/6 inferior, doz. lb. Beetroot, 2/6 doz. bnchs. Brussels Sprouts, 10/- doz. lb. Cabbages, large 10/-, medium 7/-, small 5/-, Savoy 5/- to 10/- doz. Carrots, 4/- doz. bnchs. Cauliflowers, large 14/- to choice, medium 11/-, small 7/- doz. Celery, 6/- doz. heads. Lettuces, 3/- doz. Leeks, 4/- doz. Onions, Brown, 12/- to 14/- cwt. Parsnips, 4/- doz. bnchs. Peas, 20/- bush. Potatoes, new, 8/1½ cwt. Rhubarb, Cherry, 3/- doz. lb. Tomatoes, 10/- to 14/- case. Trombones, 9/4 cwt. Turnips, 2/6 doz. bnchs. Swedes, 3/- doz. bnchs. Triangles, 9/4 cwt.

### Fruit.

Quinces, 10/- to 11/- case. Bananas, ripe, 8d. per lb. Pineapples, 5½d. per lb. Passionfruit, 3/- doz. Melons, Pie, 9/4 cwt.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN—(Ctd.)

Peas can be sown largely in almost every district—the best of the dwarf kinds being Richard Seddon and Gem, whilst of the taller kinds Yorkshire Hero, Strategem and Telephone takes pride of place.

Under glass, or in warm corners out-of-doors, especially in the coastal regions, seeds of Marrows, Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Melons and Egg Plant should be sown, in order to produce early crops. They can all be grown in a warm frame, from which the seedlings can be transplanted to their permanent positions, after they have been thoroughly hardened. Should frosts be expected, the young plants must be protected at night-time.

Although it would be foolhardy to attempt to grow French Beans in the cold parts, it is quite a good plan to make a sowing in the warmer districts where frosts are not expected. Early crops of Beans bring high prices in the market, and it is also very pleasing to be able to pick French Beans from your own garden at a time when high prices rule at the greengrocers.

Rhubarb requires rich well-drained soil, and must be given plenty of room. Crowns of the best varieties are now available. It is easy to grow, and has medicinal value as well as being quite a delicacy.



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**F. CHILTON**

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Fruit Commission Agent

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## OPENING MARKETS IN BRISBANE ON MONDAY HOLIDAYS.

To the Editor,  
"The Fruit World."

Sir,

The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, in an article in the "Queensland Producer," dated May 30, criticised the attitude of the agents in Roma-street and Turbot Street Markets for rejecting a proposal submitted by them for the opening of the markets on all Monday holidays.

The C.O.D. had requested that steps be taken to have the markets opened in order to relieve the congestion that usually follows a long weekend holiday.

The Chamber decided to give all Section holders an opportunity of expressing their views on the matter, and took a secret ballot which resulted in an overwhelming majority in favour of the present practice of closing as usual on all Monday holidays.

The C.O.D. have taken exception to this and have criticised the agents for rejecting what they consider to have been a proposal made in the interests of growers. The Chamber considers it has done the correct thing in submitting the proposal to its members and to all Section holders and feels that the criticism of the C.O.D. is unjustified.

The Queensland Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries Limited.  
E. BROOKS, Secretary.

## AGRICULTURAL CENTRES.

### Plan Approved in Victoria.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Martin, has announced that the Government had approved of a plan to provide for the establishment of agricultural centres in the principal rural districts of Victoria. To permit this to be done, seven additional appointments will be made to the Dept. of Agric. as soon as suitable qualified officers can be released from their wartime duties and suitable replacements provided.

Mr. Martin added that from time to time the Dept. of Agric. had received requests for increased technical service in country districts by scientifically trained officers closely in touch with local problems. In U.S.A., in New Zealand and in several other Australian States, the Departments of Agriculture had established in each of the principal districts, a scientifically qualified district extension officer whose function it was to promote the development of agriculture in the district, to conduct field experiments and demonstrations and to place farmers of his district in touch with the facilities available in the Dept. of Agric.

The Victorian objective is to establish as opportunity offers in each of the main districts an agricultural centre with which will be associated a district extension officer and other officers engaged in carrying out statutory functions, such as Veterinary Officers, Orchard and Dairy Supervisors, Stock Inspectors, etc. In this way it is hoped to meet the demand of producers for increased services and to place the results of Departmental research and investigation work before a much wider circle of farmers.

## PROTECTION OF TREES AGAINST RABBITS AND HARES.

The shortage of food for rabbits and hares during the past few months has resulted in these rodents invading orchard areas and attacking fruit trees. In normal seasons, newly-planted trees may be attacked, but damage to mature trees is rare. This year, however, reports have been received that mature trees have been almost ringbarked by rabbits and hares.

Horticultural officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that, as there is at present a complete absence of galvanized netting and a shortage of black iron netting, some other means must be adopted to protect the trees.

The safest method is to provide wrappers for each tree. The best wrappers are made from pieces of inch-mesh netting formed in a cylinder around the trees, if any of this material is on hand. Spreaders should be used in the form of a couple of stakes to hold the wire out from the tree.

Suitable materials for wrapping directly around the trees include strips of hessian or old bag, several thicknesses of newspapers, or bundles of some plant material such as straw, rushes or cornstalks. All these are effective but suffer from the disadvantage that they must be removed each Spring, otherwise the ties may cut into the bark of the tree.

Various mixtures plastered on fruit trees have been used to repel rabbits and hares. When feed is very scarce these do not afford complete protection.

Some of the mixtures worth a trial are as follow:—

- a. 1 oz. bitter aloes; 1 lb. common soap; 1 gallon water.
- b. Equal parts slaked lime and cow manure.

An American formula using linseed oil and sulphur is claimed to give good results.

Linseed oil is in very short supply, but the method of preparation is given for future reference. Heat one gallon of linseed oil to 470 deg. F., at which temperature a bluish vapour is given off. This should be done outside where there is no risk of fire.

Remove the oil from the fire and take 12 oz. of powdered sulphur, stirring a teaspoonful at a time into the oil. Care should be exercised here as a foaming of the oil occurs. This results in a black-evil-smelling liquid which may be painted on the trunks of trees.

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Fruit Exchange, Brisbane

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ESTABLISHED 1912.

### ROOM FOR MORE.

"It is sober truth that Australia can be a manufacturing centre of enormous importance in the Pacific, supplying not only local needs, but also the vast markets existing in India, the Netherlands East Indies, Malaya and China."

This opinion was voiced by Mr. John Storey, Director of Beaufort, Beaufighter and Lancaster production, who recently returned from a visit to London and New York. Mr. Storey, in an interview, stressed the need for immigration as a vital factor in Australia's future.

"This is Australia's great opportunity," he said. "For years to come European manufacturers will have their hands full in coping with the task of rehabilitating their own industries and trying to supply their own markets. America has its own huge home market, and will tax its industrial resources in supplying that market as well as the urgent needs of Europe."

"People of the right type in their thousands are waiting for the opportunity to come here, and we can get them, and turn them into good Australian citizens, if we plan along the right lines and provide effective machinery for selection and placement."

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the

**VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,**

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

Stand Numbers are as indicated in Parentheses.

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INTERNATIONAL FRUIT & MERCANTILE CO. (6).  
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E. A. WING & CO. (37).  
YOUNG SANG (45).

Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne.  
Phone: F 4866.



**WILLIAM FARRER CENTENARY.**

On April 3, 1945, Australia celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of one who has been described as its greatest benefactor — William James Farrer. Certainly no one in Australia has contributed so directly to the wealth of the nation, and it is probable that we do not yet recognize the extent of the debt we owe to him.

Farrer commenced his wheat breeding researches in N.S.W. in 1885, at a time when our wheat varieties were of inferior quality and when yields were so erratic as a result of the ravages of rust and drought that wheat had to be imported to meet local requirements. The phenomenal increase in the yield per acre and on the total yields for wheat produced in N.S.W. and in Australia for several decades from 1910 onwards was a direct result of Farrer's pioneering work. Farrer's wheats over a period of years averaged up to six bushels an acre more than the old varieties. Farrer

commenced his work in a new and uncharted field. He was neither trained nor experienced as an agriculturist, yet by his painstaking work, his careful observations and, above all, his intelligent interpretation of those observations, he gave this country wheats which resulted in an extension of the wheat belt, wheats of better yielding capacity, and wheats which permitted development of an export trade on the world's markets.

Not only did Farrer work on the problem of drought and disease resistance, and on such special qualities as in the case of Federation, which would permit the use of the stripper, but he was specially concerned also with the development of quality in wheat. He had as one of his objectives the production of a wheat which would provide a flour for making the loaf of bread of higher food value because of its increased protein content. Such an achievement, he considered, would be a direct contribution to a higher standard of living for the community.

Farrer was a member of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture from 1898 until his death on April 16, 1906. He was a pioneer investigator in wheat breeding research.

Soon after his death in 1906, a public meeting resulted in the formation of the Farrer Memorial Trust. Funds were collected and are now administered by the Trust in the award of scholarships for research on wheat problems. A bronze bust of Farrer was erected in Queanbeyan, in 1935. It bears an inscription in Farrer's own words: "I want to think that, when the end comes, my life has not been wasted." A few miles away, at Lambrigg, overlooking the scene of his early labours, the Commonwealth Government has erected a memorial to his memory as "an enduring token of the gratitude of a nation to a great man of science."

Farrer's work still goes on. During the last 40 years other plant breeders and other investigators have

made their contributions to the national welfare, but Farrer's life and work should be a constant source of inspiration to us all. Truly may he be regarded as a great Australian.—C.S.I.R. Journal.

**SEASONAL FORECASTING.**

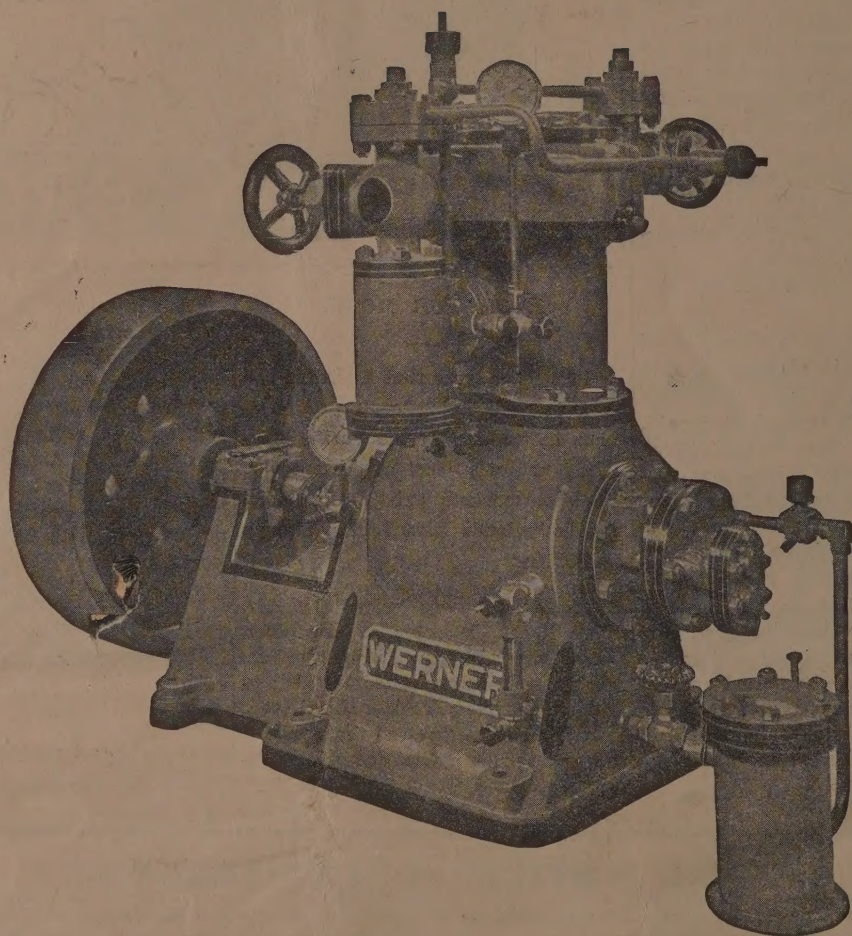
Producers' Associations throughout Victoria have recently made representations to the Commonwealth Government for some form of recognition and assistance to Mr. S. H. Ebery, of Black Rock, Victoria, in the further development of his Seasonal Forecasting Research. The Government has replied that official recognition or assistance by way of a grant would be conditional upon official investigation of Mr. Ebery's methods and on their results, and if officially approved and adopted, the issue of the forecasts free as a public service. Mr. Ebery states that at present he prefers to continue as an independent worker, and feels he can make greater contribution to meteorological knowledge and advancement by being free to follow any line of investigation without possible official restriction.

The Commonwealth Weather Bureau recognises that this work is along sound established lines, and has maintained the fullest co-operation with Mr. Ebery in the provision of such data and instrumental equipment as he requires in his research. A scientific officer will be detailed to work in collaboration with Mr. Ebery in the further conduct of his research without affecting his business interest, and to make available the data accumulated by Mr. Ebery to the present stage of his work, to the contemplated Research Division into long-range problems that it is shortly hoped to establish. Mr. Ebery's participation as a semi-official worker in this projected Research Division will be welcomed by the Government and recognition granted accordingly.

The number of subscribers to Mr. Ebery's forecasting service has increased to such an extent that financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government is wholly unnecessary. He will continue to conduct his service as a personal enterprise.

**AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES.**

At the end of March, 1943, there were in England 196 agricultural co-operative societies with a membership of 84,549 and a turnover of £18,033,504. Total share capital was £1,369,904; reserves, including undivided surplus, stood at £1,243,859, and loan capital at £329,603. The largest group is represented by 93 requirement (i.e., purchasing) societies, combining 53,175 members, and with a total turnover amounting to £12,363,363; 87 marketing societies comprise 30,329 members, and have a total turnover of £5,602,964; 16 societies (nine threshing and seven miscellaneous societies with 249 and 886 members respectively) have a combined turnover of £67,177.

**WERNER REFRIGERATION SERVICE****Throughout the Commonwealth****R. WERNER & CO. PTY. LTD.****REFRIGERATING ENGINEERS****54-86 Burnley Street, Richmond. 'Phones: JA 1161 (6 lines)**

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Tasmania.—NOYES BROS., Hobart and Launceston.

N.S.W.—STUART, WALKER &amp; CO. PTY. LTD., 174 Clarence Street, Sydney.

Queensland.—G. A. ROCHE PTY. LTD., Woolloongabba, Brisbane.